

**Murray Arts Advisory Board**  
**Minutes for June 21, 2016**

Attendance: Carolyn Milne, Becca Spjute, Bonnie Tollefson, Scott Mooy, Wendy Richhart, Deborah Daines, Kevin Westenskow, Mary Ann Kirk (staff).  
Excused: Alisa Brousseau, Lori Steadman  
Visitors: Ricky Parkinson (amphitheater consultant), Luke Orton (amphitheater tech), Kim Sorenson (Murray Parks and Rec), Lynn Chatterton (Murray Arts Council, theater director), Bill Marsh and Nanci Shino (concert band), David Thalman (Murray Symphony).

1. Minutes for May 17, 2016 were approved with minor corrections.
2. Arts in the Park season ticket sales are about the same as last year with 52 senior, 10 adult and 5 children for 67 total. We may sell a few more. Last year we had 70. The social media campaign didn't seem to impact this number but it may have impacted our gate sales for the first show. Mary Ann will see how the gate sales go for the rest of the season. Our opening show of Motown had 264 attendance with 187 paid which was a fairly good turnout considering we had to move it to Murray High due to bad weather. Lunch and children matinee concerts have averaged about 150 which is typical. The family night concert had 55 in attendance which was small but we had to move that inside also due to weather. Murray Concert Band only had about 200 which was a small audience but average for their concerts. The band camp is going well with over 30 kids participating and many of them are older students this year. The new high school band teacher has tried to push this among the high school kids since he wants to start a new high school marching band program.
3. Becca noted that the director of West Side Story did not notify everyone who auditioned whether they got cast or not. Wendy suggested we ask our directors to do that in the future so those who audition know how to plan their schedules.
4. The city attorney's office has created a formal interlocal agreement regarding the funds for music specialists. It includes a list of specific services the district must agree to provide. Doug Hill will discuss the agreement with the district and then process it before any funds can be released.
5. The Parks and Rec and Cultural Arts pages on the city website are the two most visited sites. When the website is updated, it will have easier access to our pages.
6. The city wide dance festival is scheduled for May 18. Dr. Goldhardt spoke with all the principals and confirmed that date. Carolyn and Mary Ann will organize a meeting in August with Leesa Lloyd and Katherine St. John who is gathering instructors for the residencies at each school.
7. Mary Ann passed out a summary of facility requests for our 2016-2017 seasons. She will confirm the dates once she has submitted the facility requests on July 1.

8. Ricky Parkinson presented a summary of the amphitheater remodel. Mary Ann noted that we have a set amount of money so some things may be prioritized and addressed later. Kevin suggested we apply for grants from foundations.

The group was pleased with the overall design and new additions. We confirmed that the green room and dressing rooms had adequate space.

The biggest concern was the loading dock. With the added green room and the new plaza design, we have less room for a truck without blocking part of the walkway. Mary Ann wants the trucks to unload and then move out so patrons have a better visual experience as they approach the facility. The band and symphony felt fine about moving their vehicles after load in and then returning 30 minutes after the show is over to allow patrons to leave. Some outside rentals may choose to leave the vehicle at the dock if we incorporate an extra exit gate on the north side. The parking will be revised with this design. The dock approach was adjusted to allow a straighter approach for the trucks backing in. Kim said the parking area will be enhanced over the next several years to become a park walkway.

The second concern was the pit. It currently requires heavy instruments to be moved in and out of the pit every night for security. The entrance to the pit is also too small for large instruments. The architect will explore if the drainage below the pit could allow for a deeper pit for security possibilities. This will also address musicians bumping their heads on the overhead and a collapsible pit cover that would reduce labor and storage needs.

After discussions, several suggestions were made:

- Change direction and enlarge loading dock
- Explore ways to lower pit so it can be secured at night for musicals. Widen entrance to pit.
- Make sure dressing rooms and green room are air conditioned
- Change new bathrooms to two unisex bathrooms which would enlarge one dressing room
- Dressing rooms and bathrooms can be used as male, female, or both depending on need
- Verify if concession area requires a sink
- ADA seating and 6 foot aisle should go across the entire house. This will remove about 100 seats but handicapped seats could be used and chairs added if they are not fully utilized and we are crowded.